

1966

PRESS ADVISORY

No. 197-P
September 21, 1994

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Shalikashvili will host an Honor Cordon to welcome President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti to the Pentagon at 1:15 p.m. (EDT), September 21, 1994. The Cordon and a photo opportunity will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance.

President Aristide accepted an invitation to visit the Pentagon for meetings with Secretary Perry and General Shalikashvili and a detailed briefing on Operation Uphold Democracy.

Secretary Perry and President Aristide will make brief remarks at a media availability to be held at 2 p.m. at the River Entrance of the Pentagon.

Media interested in audiovisual coverage of these events may contact Mr. Terry Mitchell at (703) 695-0169.

Secretary Perry's speech to the Annual Meeting of the American Business Conference is now scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. (EDT) at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel, Pierce Room, 14th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

The event will be open to the news media. The point of contact is Mary Lou Galvin at (202) 822-9300.

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1967

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT JEAN-BERTRAND ARISTIDE OF HAITI TO MEDIA

FOLLOWING MEETINGS

PENTAGON

SEPTEMBER 21, 1994

SEC. PERRY: Good afternoon. I was pleased and privileged to be able to welcome President Aristide on his first visit to the Pentagon. While he was here we had a brief discussion in my office and then went down to the Operational Briefing Room of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and took the opportunity then, to brief President Aristide on the current and the planned details of the military operations in Haiti.

Among other things, we explained to him that we will have by the end of the day 8,000 military forces in Haiti, and a large contingent at the Port-au-Prince airport, a large contingent at the Port-au-Prince port, and we now have a large group of Marines in Cap-Haitien. In addition to that we have a company of Bradley fighting vehicles, dozens of assault helicopters, gunships, and we are landing C-141s and C-5s.

After the briefing, we had a very good discussion on the current situation in Haiti. I emphasized, reaffirmed President Aristide our commitment to a quick, peaceful return of the president to Haiti. I told him about the steps that we are taking to prevent violence and retain order in Haiti.

We deplored the abhorrent acts of violence that took place yesterday, and I described to him the steps we are taking to minimize the recurrence of those sort of events. In particular, today we arrived and now have fully operational more than 1,000 military police. I should emphasize the forces that landed Monday and Tuesday were primarily combat forces whose job was to protect themselves in the event that the entry was not peaceful. Since then we have brought in a large number, more than a thousand, I said, of military police, and they will have the specific function of overseeing and monitoring the

functioning of the Haiti police force to ensure that they do not use unreasonable restraint in trying to deal with crowd control problems.

We also described to him that we have now a quick reaction force assembled of combat forces and Bradley fighting vehicles available to be called out in the event there's a general breakdown of order. And we also described the discussion that General Shelton had this morning with General Cedras explaining to him the importance of maintaining restraint on the police and making arrangements for how our military police would be used to facilitate that proper functioning, to ensure that proper functioning of the police force.

We had very good discussions with President Aristide, but rather than my describing to you his response to our discussions, I would like to now turn the podium over to President Aristide and let him describe his impressions.

Mr. President?

PRESIDENT ARISTIDE: Secretary of State Mr. William Perry, Undersecretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott, National Security Adviser Mr. Tony Lake, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Shalikashvili, ladies and gentlemen:

In these past three days something has happened in Haiti. Operation Uphold Democracy was peacefully deployed. President Clinton, this is the result of the decision that you made. This is the result of your leadership. Thank you, and the people of the people of the United States, for your commitment to lead a multinational effort in carrying out the will of the United Nations to help restore democracy to Haiti.

It is certain -- it is certain that every action that stops the flow of even a single drop of blood is a step towards lasting peace which we envision. I extend my thanks to President Carter, General Powell, and Senator Nunn.

General Shalikashvili, when U.S. men and women arrived in Haiti on Monday, they encountered a nation of people ready to embrace peace. To you, your commander in the field, General Shelton, and the thousands of American soldiers both in Haiti and on their way to Haiti, on behalf of my nation, my many thanks for joining in this endeavor for peace. Your wives, husbands, parents, family

and friends, may take comfort knowing that your presence is a contribution to the justice and democracy that we seek, principles that run deep in the traditions of the United States.

We, who stood side by side with you in the battle of Savannah, Georgia, to fight for the independence of the United States, are happy that today you stand side by side with us to uphold democracy in Haiti. The light of peace must shine through Haiti. The world must see this light shine in Haiti day and night for every single citizen. Nothing must block this light of peace -- neither violence nor vengeance, guns nor provocation, impunity nor retaliation. Peace must flourish in Haiti. The success of this mission is directly tied to the process of disarmament. As I said on February 7, 1991, the day of my inauguration, not another drop of blood must flow in Haiti. No to violence, no to vengeance; yes to reconciliation, yes to justice.

People of Haiti, continue to uphold democracy, be vigilant and guard against provocation. While we move towards dialogue, mutual respect, enjoyment of civil liberties and political stability, we call on all senators, deputies, members of administrative

consuls, municipal consuls, departmental consuls, mayors and others elected officials, to resume their offices, as peaceful environment is indispensable for those duly elected officials and the political parties to function.

To help foster this environment, I have created a transition team headed by our minister of defense, General Jean Beliotte. They will assess conditions in Haiti and recommend the next steps to be taken to ensure the quick restoration of constitutional order. Here in Washington, I will continue to meet and work with the National Security Adviser, Mr. Anthony Lake, and special adviser on Haiti, Reverend Bill Gray, and you, General Shalikashvili, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, to outline the steps that it will take to guarantee the restoration of democracy, which will bring peace to all, reconciliation among all, respect and justice for every single citizen in Haiti.

In less than 24 days, I will join you in Haiti. There, we will continue working as peacemakers, peacekeepers and peace lovers.

Thank you.

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